Claims

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for accessing data, comprising:

a parser for retrieving and parsing information associated with a data source;

a data document component adapted to receive at least a portion of the parsed information, the data document component having a hierarchical representation of information associated with the data source; and

a data set component, adapted to receive at least a portion of the parsed information, the data set component having a relational representation of at least some of the information associated with the data source, the data set component and the data document component being mapped to each other.

2.   The system of claim 1, the data source being at least one of an XML document and a relational database document.

3.   The system of claim 1, the data set component having a structural inference component for inferring a relational structure of the data source.

4.   The system of claim 1, the data set component having a schema component receiving a schema describing a relational structure of the data source.

5.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a managed provider for accessing a relational database document, the managed provider providing information associated with the relational database document to at least one of the data set component and the data document component.

6.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a service facilitating access to the hierarchical representation of information stored in the data document component.

7.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a designer facilitating access to the relational representation of information stored in the data set component.

8.   A system facilitating access to data, comprising:

an XML data document component having a hierarchical representation of information associated with a source document; and

a data set component having a relational representation of at least some of the information associated with the source document, the XML data document component and the data set component being mapped to each other.

9.   The system of claim 8, the source document being an XML document.

10.   The system of claim 9, further comprising an XML parser for retrieving information from the XML document, the parser sending information associated with the XML document to the XML data document component and the data set component.

11.   The system of claim 10, the data set further comprising a structural inference component for inferring a relational structure of the XML document.

12.   The system of claim 10, the data set further comprising a schema component receiving a schema describing a relational structure of the XML document.

13.   The system of claim 8, the source document being a relational database document.

14.   The system of claim 13, further comprising a managed provider for accessing the relational database document, the managed provider providing information associated with the relational database document to at least one of the data set component and the XML data document component.

15.   The system of claim 8, further comprising a service facilitating access to the hierarchical representation f information stored in the XML data document component.

16.   The system of claim 8, further comprising a designer facilitating access to the relational representation of information stored in the data set component.

17.   A method for accessing data, comprising:

loading information associated with a source document into a data document having a hierarchical representation of information associated with the source document; and,

loading information associated with the source document into a data set having a relational representation of at least some of the information associated with the source document.

18.   The method of claim 17, further comprising at least one of the following:

synchronizing a change made to information stored in the data set to corresponding information stored in the data document; and,

synchronizing a change made to information stored in the data document to corresponding information stored in the data set if the changed information is included in the data set.

19.   The method of claim 16, further comprising at least one of the following:

accessing the hierarchical representation of information associated with the source document stored in the data document utilizing a service; and,

accessing the relational representation of information associated with the source document stored in the data set utilizing a designer.

20.   A system facilitating access to data, comprising:

means for storing a source document as a hierarchical representation of data;

means for storing at least a portion of the source document as a relational representation of data;

means for accessing at least one of the hierarchical representation of data and the relational representation of data; and

means for synchronizing a change to the relational representation of data with the hierarchical representation of data.

21.   The system of claim 20, further comprising means for synchronizing a change to the hierarchical representation of data with the relational representation of data.

22.   A method for accessing data, comprising:

associating a region of a hierarchical representation of data with a row of a relational data set; and

correlating a subset of the region with a state, the state being one of: (1) the subset being mapped to an element of the data set; (2) the subset being mapped to the row of the data set; and (3) the subset being unmapped to the data set.

23.   The method of claim 22, the subset comprising at least one of: an element and an attribute.

24.   The method of claim 22, the subset being mapped to a corresponding column of the data set.

25.   The method of claim 22, the subset being mapped to a corresponding row of the data set.

26.   The method of claim 22, further comprising ignoring unmapped information from the hierarchical representation of the data.

27.   A computer readable medium having computer executable components for accessing data, comprising:

an XML data document component adapted to having a hierarchically represent information associated with a source document; and

a data set component adapted to relationally represent at least some of the information associated with the source document, the XML data document component and the data set component being mappable to each other.

28.   A data packet adapted to be transmitted between two or more computer processes, the data packet comprising:

one or more first data fields adapted to store a hierarchical represention of information associated with a source document; and

one or more second data fields adapted to store mapping instructions relating to mapping the hierarchical represention of information to a relational representation of the source document.

29.   A data packet adapted to be transmitted between two or more computer processes, the data packet comprising:

one or more first data fields adapted to relationally represent at least some of the information associated with the source document; and

one or more second data fields adapted to store mapping instructions relating to mapping the relational representation of information to a hierarchical representation of the source document.